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## U. S. Denies Russians' Charge That Austrians Are Hired a Spies

VIENNA, Nov. 24.—United States Army headquarters categorically denied today Russian assertions that Americans are hiring Austrian officials as spies.

The Army statement attacked the Russian news agency Tass for issuing a report to that effect last night in connection with the arrest of Dr. Margarette Ottlinger, section chief in the Austrian Ministry of Economic Planning.

The Austrian government declared "completely untrue" the assertion by Tass that Dr. Ottlinger used her official position to spy for the United States.

The American Army statement called the Tass story a "complete fabrication and pure invention."

Arrested November 5. Russian troops arrested the woman November 5.

The federal government maintains that, according to international law, Austrian citizens on Austrian soil cannot be guilty of espionage since the occupation troops here have not a war function but are here solely to maintain order," the government statement said.

It said Austrian citizens who act as agents for a foreign military power violate Austrian laws and should be tried by an Austrian court to insure they will be given a proper defense. The statement said cases such as the arrest of Dr. Ottlinger are matters for the Allied Council to decide and that no occupation power alone has exclusive authority in treating with Austrian government officials or their employees.

Arrest Held Illegal. The United States Army headquarters statement said: "It is noted that Dr. Ottlinger was illegally arrested by the Soviet authorities and, in true Gestapo style, was held incommunicado and is still being so held, contrary to all democratic principles. Any statements which under such circumstances are attributed to her can be given absolutely no credence."

The statement said Dr. Ottlinger at no time divulged information of any kind that could be construed as intelligence in the sense of espionage or secret service.

Referring to the Tass statement that Dr. Ottlinger had been contacted by Lt. Col. E. M. J. Kretzmann and Charles Friediger, the Army said they had been in touch with her in their duties as liaison officers to the Austrian government.

In Washington, Mrs. Kretzmann last night said her husband is in a hospital for treatment of a minor ailment and could not be disturbed. She told a reporter that she spent a year in Vienna with her husband, now a foreign service officer in the State Department, but that she did not know Dr. Ottlinger.

She said she had no knowledge of Dr. Ottlinger's statement, as reported by Tass, that she dealt with Col. Kretzmann.

**District Man Fined \$125**  
**In Jobless Benefit Fraud**  
Andrew A. Yurka, 48, yesterday was fined a total of \$125 on five charges that he fraudulently claimed District unemployment compensation benefits.

Yurka, who lives in the 2300 block of Fourteenth street N.E., was convicted on all counts in a trial before Judge Thomas D. Quinn in Municipal Court.

Agents from the District Unemployment Compensation Board testified he accepted three \$16 payments and filed claims on two other occasions over a five-week period in September and October. He was employed at the time, it was said, as a handyman at the Club Hillbilly in Seat Pleasant, Md.

**Hospital Attendants Sought for Mount Alto**  
Mount Alto Veterans' Hospital here is in need of hospital attendants at \$2,284 a year, and a bacteriologist at \$4,478, it was announced today. Applications will be received at the personnel office of the hospital, 2650 Wisconsin avenue N.W.

Nurses are also required at VA hospitals at Perry Point, Md.; Green, N. C.; Martinsburg, W. Va.; and Richmond, Va. Salaries start at \$2,974 and range up to \$6,235 a year. Applications should be sent to the Chief of Nursing Division, Richmond Branch Office, Veterans' Administration, 900 North Lombardy street, Richmond, Va.

**Diplomat Shot to Death**  
MOSCOW, Nov. 24 (AP).—Gunnar Reiser, a secretary at the Norwegian Embassy, was fatally wounded by gunshots in his apartment here Monday. The Embassy said it was investigating, though it believed Mr. Reiser probably shot himself accidentally.

## New Faces in Congress Kefauver Beat Crump Machine to Enter Senate After Five Terms in House

Representative Estes Kefauver, Democrat, comes to the Senate after victory over the Crump Democratic machine in Tennessee as well as over the former chairman of the Republican National Committee, Carroll Reece.

He will succeed Senator Stewart, who was defeated in the Democratic primary in a three-cornered race. Young and bookish, at 45, tall Mr. Kefauver resorted to a coonskin cap and lively political campaigning. The cap was adopted after Boss Crump published newspaper ads calling Mr. Kefauver "a pet coon of the Communists."

He got a ring-tailed coonskin cap and wore it on the stump, saying: "This coon may have a ring around its tail, but it will never have a ring through its nose."

Champions D. C. Vote. A student, lawyer and liberal advocate of even more changes in congressional procedure than were made in the Legislative Reorganization Act, Mr. Kefauver strongly championed votes for the District.

The voteless plight of the National Capital was deplored by him in a book "Twentieth Century Congress," of which he was co-author with Dr. Jack Levin. He said: "While always retaining adequate power to legislate on Federal matters pertaining to the city and to establish Federal institutions and where within its boundaries Congress should unburden itself of the local housekeeping."

"District residents should be given the right to vote, elect their own officials, participate in national elections and be represented in Congress."

During five terms in the House, the Senator-elect was generally a consistent supporter of the administration. He is enthusiastic about TVA, voted against the Taft-Hartley labor bill and had important labor support in his Senate campaign.

He advocates a change in the presidential election system to make it more responsive to the people, supports the Marshall Plan, and promises to back parity price support.

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## Breen Apologizes; To Pay County \$300

By the Associated Press  
HAYWARD, Wis., Nov. 24.—A public apology and about \$300 in the price Singer Bobby Breen will pay for the 36 hours a posse spent slogging through snow-choked forests looking for him while he relaxed at a hotel under an assumed name.

The apology—Mr. Breen's idea—was issued early today. The money—Sawyer County District Attorney Winslow Davis' bill—is payable at once. He said the singer agreed to pay the bill for the expenses the county incurred in the search.

Mr. Breen spent most of yesterday explaining to Ashland and Sawyer County authorities why he didn't try a little harder to report his whereabouts after his chartered plane was forced down Sunday. The plane was piloted by Kenneth Thompson of Waukesha, who remained with Breen at a Glidden hotel while searching parties

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combed the wilderness on the ground and a flyer dared hazardous weather conditions to hunt by air.

Officials of the two counties said they would not bring any charges against the 21-year-old former child movie star.

Mr. Breen's apology said: "I am deeply sorry for the inconvenience and hardship I have unwittingly caused many persons including the pilot who took part in the search for me."

"We were forced down by bad weather and motor trouble and had we realized a search was being made we would have informed local authorities of our whereabouts. Due to inadequate communications in the locality of where we landed we were unable to complete calls to people we believed interested. There

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THE EVENING STAR, Washington, D. C.\*\*\* A-7  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1948.

was no hoax nor any attempt to mislead any one or secure publicity. I wish to sincerely thank every one who assisted in the search."

**Golfers Carry Scraper**  
Walvis Bay, Southwest Africa, has one of that continent's most unusual golf courses, opened recently by Mayor Jack Christie. It was laid out on the sands of the Namibi

desert. Not a tree or blade of grass is to be seen and golfers carry a scraper to level the sand on the "greens" before putting.

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